

Gerund: a noun made from a verb by adding -ing. You can use a gerund as the subject, object, or complement in a sentence. You can make a gerund negative by adding “not.”

***Reading** helps you learn English (subject)*

*I enjoy **reading**. (object)*

*Her favorite hobby is **reading**. (complement)*

*He enjoys **not working**. (negative)*

Infinitive: a noun made from the “to” form of a verb. You can use an infinitive as the subject, object, or complement in a sentence. You can make an infinitive negative by adding “not.”

***To learn** is important. (subject)*

*He wants **to learn**. (object)*

*The most important thing is **to learn**. (complement)*

*He makes a point **not to learn**. (negative)*

Some Considerations:

Both gerunds and infinitives can be used as the **subject** or the **complement** of a sentence. However, as subjects or complements, gerunds usually sound more like normal, spoken English, whereas infinitives sound more abstract. Gerunds sound more natural and would be more common in everyday English. Infinitives emphasize the possibility or potential for something and sound more philosophical.

***Riding** my bike is really fun. (more casual)*

*What's really fun is **to ride** my bike. (more formal or philosophical)*

As the **object** of a sentence, it is more difficult to choose between a gerund or an infinitive. In such situations, gerunds and infinitives are **not normally interchangeable**. Usually, the **main verb** in the sentence determines whether you use a gerund or an infinitive.

*He enjoys **swimming**.*

*He wants **to swim**.*

Even verbs that can use either a gerund or an infinitive often indicate different meanings depending on which is used.

*He stopped **smoking**.*

*He stopped **to tie his shoe**. (this implies “in order to”)*

Verb + Gerund

admit
advise
appreciate
avoid
complete
consider
delay
deny
detest
dislike
enjoy
escape
excuse
finish
forbid
get through
have
imagine
mind
miss
permit
postpone
practice
quit
recall
report
resent
resist
resume
risk
suggest
tolerate

Verb + EITHER

begin
cease
choose
continue
detest
dislike
dread
forget
hate
have
keep
leave
like
love
need
prefer
prepare
propose
regret
remember
say
start
stop
try

Verb + Infinitive

agree
aim
appear
arrange
ask
attempt
be able
beg
care
condescend
consent
dare
decide
deserve
expect
fail
happen
hesitate
hope
hurry
intend
leap
long
mean
neglect
offer
plan
proceed
promise
refuse
shoot
strive
swear
threaten
wait
want
wish